

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmission of application data in a plurality of services in a digital transport stream, each of said plurality of services carrying at least one application, the method comprising:

~~the step of~~ providing an application data table containing information regarding said at least one application carried by each of a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application data table is transported in a transport packet having predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein each service further comprises a programme map table giving access to applications carried by this service, the programme map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the application data table further comprises information regarding which applications may be accessed via each service.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim-claim 1~~, wherein the application information carried in the application data table further includes information relating to the size of memory required to execute an application.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim-claim 1~~, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a priority value indicating the relative priority of an application.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim-claim 1~~, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim-claim 1~~ in which the application information in the application data table includes a flag value concerning the action to be taken with an application upon a change of service.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim-claim 1~~, comprising:

providing a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method as claimed in claim 10, wherein each application data table is transported in one of a table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, as applied to further comprising:

receiving the application data table in a digital television system.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

14. (Currently Amended) A transmission apparatus ~~for use in a method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13, said apparatus~~ comprising means for transmitting a transport stream comprising a plurality of services together with an application data table containing information regarding applications carried by a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit the application data table in a transport packet having a predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14 ~~or 15~~, comprising means for electronically signing said application data table so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 14 to 16~~ claim 14, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit for each service a programme map table giving access to applications carried by that service, the programme map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 14 to 17~~ claim 14, wherein the application data table further comprises information regarding which applications may be accessed via each service.
19. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 14 to 18~~ claim 14, wherein the application information carried in the application data table further includes information relating to the size of memory required to execute an application.
20. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 14 to 19~~ claim 14, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a priority value indicating the relative priority of an application.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 14 to 20~~ claim 14, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.
22. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 14 to 21~~ claim 14, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a flag value concerning the action to be taken with an application upon change of service.
23. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 14 to 22~~ claim 14, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.
24. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit each application data table and a section within a

transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The transmission apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 14 to 24~~  
claim 14, wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

26. (Currently Amended) A digital television system comprising:

~~a transmission apparatus as claimed in any of claims 14 to 25~~ a transmission apparatus, said apparatus comprising means for transmitting a transport stream comprising a plurality of services together with an application data table containing information regarding applications carried by a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A decoder comprising:

a memory for storing an application data table comprising information regarding applications carried by a plurality of services within the transport stream, and means for controlling at least one of the downloading and maintenance of such applications in dependence on the information contained within the application data table.

29. (Currently Amended) An application data table ~~containing~~comprising:

information regarding at least one application carried by each of a plurality of services within transport stream.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The decoder ~~or table~~ as claimed in ~~any of claims 27 to 29~~ claim 28, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit ~~a~~the decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.
31. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The decoder ~~or table~~ as claimed in ~~any of claims 27 to 30~~ claim 28, wherein the application data table further comprises information regarding which applications may be accessed via each service.
32. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The decoder ~~or table~~ as claimed in ~~any of claims 27 to 31~~ claim 28, wherein the application information carried in the application data table further includes information relating to the size of memory required to execute an application.
33. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The decoder ~~or table~~ as claimed in ~~any of claims 27 to 32~~ claim 28, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a priority value indicating the relative priority of an application.
34. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The decoder ~~or table~~ as claimed in ~~any of claims 27 to 33~~ claim 28, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.
35. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The decoder ~~or table~~ as claimed in ~~any of claims 27 to 34~~ claim 28, in which the application information in the application data table includes a flag value concerning the action to be taken with an application upon a change of service.
36. (Currently Amended) A plurality of tables according to ~~any of claims 29 to 35~~ claim 29, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The plurality of tables as claimed in claim 36, wherein each application data table is associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

In addition, please add the following new claims:

42. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

43. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29, wherein the application data table further comprises information regarding which applications may be accessed via each service.

44. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29, wherein the application information carried in the application data table further includes information relating to the size of memory required to execute an application.

45. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a priority value indicating the relative priority of an application.

46. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.

47. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29, in which the application information in the application data table includes a flag value concerning the action to be taken with an application upon a change of service.